

July 5, 2006

Recessed Meeting

Minutes

Members present

Brady Wooten- Chairman

Allen Sneed- Vice- Chairman

Leon Casstevens- Commissioner

Kim Clark Phillips- Commissioner-

D.C. Swaim- Commissioner

Others Present

Melinda Vestal-Clerk to the Board

Chairman Wooten called the recessed meeting back to order.

Ms. Vestal, Clerk, informed the Board that she had contacted Robert Hester with the Association and All-American Associates regarding the position of an interim manager.

Commissioner Phillips asked if the Board was looking for an interim or a full-time manager. She also inquired about the qualifications for a manager.

Ms. Vestal stated she would contact the Clerk's Net and get a job description used by other counties.

Attorney Graham suggested an interim with experience.

Ms. Vestal informed the Board that there were several openings for county managers on the NCACC website. She informed the Board that she would make copies of the job listings to give the Board something to go by.

Commissioner Phillips suggested the applicant have a degree in county/government management or someone who has taken similar classes (i.e. business management, public administration) or received training from the SOG or IOG and have at least five years experience in local government. She reminded the Board that a highly experienced manager will be costly.

Commissioner Sneed suggested Jim Haynes, Richmond County or Dennis Thompson, former manager in Surry.

Chairman Wooten suggested talking with Robert Hester about getting some general procedures for hiring a county manager.

Chairman Wooten inquired on how the Board wanted to handle the day to day operations.

Commissioner Phillips suggested that Attorney Graham sign off on daily issues.

Chairman Wooten stated he would come by and sign purchase orders, if the Board so directed.

Commissioner Phillips asked for a summary of the Friday, June 30th and Monday, July 3rd meetings.

Chairman Wooten stated the Board discussed the budget for two hours on Friday and then adopted an interim budget and then on Monday we adopted the budget as presented cutting \$450,000. Chairman Wooten continued that the Board reviewed the agenda and then Mr. Wood talked with the Board in closed session and when the Board came out of closed session Mr. Wood resigned.

Commissioner Phillips inquired how the Board decided to cut \$450,000.

Chairman Wooten stated there were several motions made at Friday's meeting but no action was taken on any of them; cut \$800,000, cut \$500,000 and cut \$400,000 and adopt as presented.

Commissioner Phillips asked what was the justification in cutting \$450,000?

Chairman Wooten stated to cut expenses.

Commissioner Phillips stated the county does not have a manager, we have no idea where to cut the \$450,000 and we are already facing a tight budget.

Chairman Wooten stated the county is going to move quickly on hiring an interim manager.

Commissioner Phillips asked the Board if they would apply for the job? She commented that whoever is hired is being set up to fail. She commented we

still have no idea where to make the cuts. She asked Chairman Wooten about a closed door conversation with Mr. Wood and if he was forced to resign?

Chairman Wooten stated the Board went in closed session to discuss personnel and when we came out Mr. Wood resigned.

Commissioner Phillips asked Commissioners Sneed and Casstevens if they forced Mr. Wood out; both responded no.

Chairman Wooten stated the county needs to move forward; provide leadership. He encouraged the other Board members to support the decisions that have been made and to move forward.

Chairman Wooten stated the Board would need to depend on Melinda and to help her as much as we can.

Commissioner Casstevens asked how often do requisition forms come in the office.

Ms. Vestal responded anytime through out the day.

***Commissioner Casstevens made the motion to allow the Chairman to sign off on requisitions allowing Ms.Vestal to use the signature stamp with the approval of the Chairman and if the Chairman is not available allow Attorney Graham to sign the requisitions. Commissioner Sneed seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Miscellaneous

Chairman Wooten stated he would like to meet with Randy Darden and review where the county is on the various water projects.

It was the consensus of the Board to meet with Mr. Darden on July 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Wooten discussed the previous meetings with the towns regarding water and how the county needed to move forward on getting water.

Chairman Wooten mentioned the courthouse.

Commissioner Sneed stated the Board needs to look at the courthouse and get the issues resolved.

Ms. Vestal read a list of potential interim managers.

Commissioner Swaim suggested contacting Dennis Thompson.

It was the consensus of the Board to contact Robert Hester and let him contact Dennis Thompson and Willie Best, former Guilford County Manager.

Commissioner Swaim informed the Board that Mr. Wood served on many committees. He asked the Board if they wanted to send someone in his place?

Commissioner Phillips stated the county needs to have representation at the national and local levels.

Chairman Wooten called for a break.

Chairman Wooten recognized Mitchell Davis, Magistrate.

Mr. Davis stated he has been a citizen and public servant in Yadkin County for 31 years and he has never seen the county regress more than it has in the past two years. The people of the county voted May 2nd for change. He stated that there are two members leaving the Board in December. He stated that the Board accepted the resignation of Mr. Wood who had no intention of resigning; he was forced out by three members of this Board. Yadkin County citizens need to rise to the occasion and take back the county before it regresses further. He stated there have been some underhanded tactics and illegal meetings and if he was a law enforcement officer he would start an investigation. He urged the Board to think about their actions before they act because what the three of you are doing to the citizens of Yadkin County is wrong.

Chairman Wooten asked for clarification on the budget and if the county was operating on the new budget or an interim budget.

Attorney Graham stated until the budget ordinance is adopted you are operating on an interim budget.

Chairman Wooten instructed Ms. Vestal to inform the department heads.

Commissioner Phillips stated the cuts have not been identified, how can it be accepted as is.

Commissioner Sneed discussed mistakes on passed budgets.

Commissioner Swaim stated the \$73,355 in add backs are already approved.

***Commissioner Phillips made the motion to put the \$450,000 back in the budget, plus the additional \$73,355 in add backs. Commissioner Swaim seconded.**

The Board discussed the budget and the previous actions on it.

Attorney Graham stated there was an interim budget adopted but the budget ordinance was not adopted.

Commissioner Swaim asked if the county operates under an interim budget until the final budget is passed.

Commissioner Phillips asked if the Board, when they voted on the budget, were under the assumption that it was finalized.

Commissioners Sneed and Wooten responded yes.

Chairman Wooten stated the motion was to allow the County Manager and Department Heads to make the cuts.

The Board voted 2-3. Chairman Wooten, Commissioner Sneed and Commissioner Casstevens opposed.

Commissioner Sneed stated he voted against the budget because of mistakes.

Commissioner Phillips stated the budget is to cover the needs of the county. The money that is obligated to the departments does not mean they spend it all.

Chairman Wooten stated the budget ordinance can be amended to fit the changes.

Commissioner Phillips stated she would like Attorney Graham to attend all commissioners' meetings.

The Board discussed the courthouse.

Ms. Vestal discussed the original estimates and asked the Board if they wanted her to contact them.

Commissioner Phillips questioned the expertise of the Board regarding what was needed for the bullpens. She asked the Sheriff for his input.

Sheriff Cain stated he was not included on the bullpens or the security issues at the courthouse. He suggested the Board move forward before the Judge issues an order for the Board to come before him.

***Commissioner Phillips made the motion to turn the issue of the bullpens over to the Sheriff and the Architect. Commissioner Swaim seconded.**

Sheriff Cain stated the Board has his hands tied. He cannot properly protect the citizens working off the same budget for eight years. Sheriff Cain stated he does not work for the Board, but agreed we all needed to work together.

The Board and the Sheriff discussed the needs for the bullpens.

The Board voted 5-0.

***Commissioner Swaim made the motion to sign the contract with Pinnacle Architect. Motion withdrawn.**

Recess

***Commissioner Swaim made the motion to recess the meeting until 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 6th. Commissioner Sneed seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Melinda Vestal, Clerk to the Board